

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
6-6-2016

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Ed Delia, Kinan Tadmori, Carolyn George, David Ogens, Christine Lewis, Kevin Hall, Katie Ellis

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 5-16-16 approved

Community Garden: TAP released press release announcing Berkeley Heights won grant, but Christine hasn't been contacted. Kevin spoke to Bob Bocchino and John Bussiculo. Both agreed that they should sit down and review plan/answer any questions. Kevin, Christine, and Richard will meet with Bob and John on Thursday 6/9/16.

Environmental Movies: Nothing to report.

Scout Projects: Nothing to report.

Rain gardens and watershed ambassador: Richard looking for update on which residents are following through with building rain gardens. 3 confirmed households building rain gardens. Katie will check with Rutgers on who has followed through with plans. Rain garden has to be approved by Rutgers to determine that the criteria are satisfied. Katie's term is ending, a new Watershed Ambassador will start in August. Katie has done assessment of brooks in Berkeley Heights and found they are slightly impaired, will supply us with results/data of her assessment. Richard will see if there is something we can do with Sustainable Jersey to earn points in relation to watershed ambassador.

Peppertown Park: Mulching 8:30 AM Thursday morning.

Passaic River Park Crossing: L'Oreal volunteer day on Friday 6/10/16 9:00 AM

Stormwater Ordinance: Meeting Tuesday 6/7/16 Bob Bocchino and stormwater committee 10:00 AM.

Dog Waste Receptacles: No update

CSIP Grant for EAB: Richard will check if we have received it.

Street Fair: June 26. Richard is getting poster from Rutgers for rain gardens (already on posterboard). Application submitted. List of activities are in previous minutes. Christine has posters of rain gardens, native species. Ed will purchase hanging flower basket, Richard will follow up about the tree. Katie will give us 2 rain barrels. Richard will check with ANJEC if they have game for table, and if there are leftover items from the bio blitz to give away.

Tree fund: Right now residents can have a tree planted in their front yard in the town

Right of Way, Kevin asked if it is possible for them to have it planted in their backyard if they plant it themselves? Kevin made motion to allow residents to plant the tree wherever they want on their property, if in the right of way the town will plant it. Motion seconded by David. Discussion: Do we deliver the tree at a mutually agreed upon date/time? Or leave it in a designated area and allow residents to pick it up and have it installed themselves? Tree may not be easily moved around by a typical person, may need a professional landscaper to pick up/plant. General goal is to increase the canopy; if that is the case perhaps we can provide saplings to residents instead. Richard will ask if there is possibility to get tree smaller than what they typically sell (between the size of a sapling and a bigger tree). Discussion tabled until next meeting.

New Business

Sustainable Jersey: Richard will send us links to Sustainable Jersey website to show what our current certification is. Discuss next time after we've taken a look at the website and determine what support we need from the town. Kinan will be doing project on community outreach for Sustainable Jersey points.

Summer Playground: Hoping to get a big recycling bin to fill throughout the summer because water bottles have been going in the garbage. Could make it into a contest throughout the summer. Need to identify a receptacle big enough and who will pick it up at the end. Christine will research receptacles. May be grant money for this. Richard will see if master gardeners will give a free program to playground camp. Have looked into recycling cans for Columbia, but expensive.

Plans

Cell Tower at GLHS: Landscape plan, replacing 12 trees with 24 trees due to the size, all native trees. Located between the soccer field and baseball field. Will have 10-foot fence with slats. Christine mentioned that tree pollen may affect students or local homeowners. Richard commented that arbor vitae may be subject to damage from deer in that area.

238 Washington Street: Adding deck at rear, constructing second story. Maximum allowed pervious cover is 30%, but they currently have 59% impervious cover. Application decreases it to approximately 57% impervious cover. House is not occupied, stripped to studs, recently bought. Only comment would be to have them keep runoff on their property.

40 Pine Grove: Constructing deck which will encroach 12 feet into setback. No comments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2016 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on June 12, 2016